



VATICAN MUSEUMS REPORT

A publication of the the Patrons of the Arts • Winter 2013 • Volume XXXIX

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PATRONS OF THE ARTS

There are countless clubs and organizations in which we have participated over the years, and, for various reasons, our involvement in many of these groups has dwindled. In our busy lives, we need to prioritize the commitments competing for our time and efforts. With this in mind, you may have asked yourself why you joined the Patrons: was it to help restore, preserve, and increase the artistic legacy of the collections and buildings of the Vatican Museums? to enrich your knowledge of art through the amazing volume of works housed in the Museums?; or was

it as simple as trying to avoid the lines during your next visit to the Vatican State (one of our perks)?

Regardless of your initial motivations for participating, if you had the honor and privilege of attending the Patrons 30th Anniversary Celebration in Rome, you would have returned from this amazing journey with your intentions both strengthened and solidified. You might even say that this event-filled holiday became a sort of "pilgrimage" for the 300 or so North American and European philanthropists (41 from the Michigan Chapter) in attendance.



By Biagio Tamarizzo, Direzione Servizi Tecnici

With champagne in hand and numerous delicacies exciting our palates, the events began as we stood in the Giardino Quadrato, a large courtyard just behind the Vatican Gardens. Each of the five senses were vivified as musicians played and colored lights accented larger than life ice sculptures of Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*. The Opening Reception concluded with small group tours of the Carriage Museum, a behind the scenes view of how former and present pontiffs travel.

Each event seemed to top the one prior. The next morning, you could hear a pin drop as the head curators and restoration directors shared detailed explanations of how the Museums' priceless works are restored and conserved. We left the Synod Hall to meet and watch firsthand as these artisan restorers used state of the art techniques to repair mosaics, paintings, paper, and wood. That evening, after a tour of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the Archpriest of this pristine basilica celebrated Mass for us.

It was surreal to get a peek behind the scenes of the Vatican State. The next day, not only did we get a taste of its inner workings through presentations by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Senior Advisor for Communications, and the Vatican Secretary of State, but afterwards we were given behind-the-scenes tours of rooms in the heart of the Apostolic Palace normally closed to the public. How do you top this? How about eating a four star meal in a gallery that evening, mere inches from masterpieces created by Caravaggio, Raphael, and DaVinci?

Not sufficiently awed or humbled? How about being thanked and challenged by the Pope himself? Of any single moment shared on our journey, I can confidently say that the most wondrous was as we gathered in the Sala Clementina waiting for the Pontiff to enter. The nervous energy was expressed through laughter, cheers, and tears as the Leader of the Roman Catholic Church entered the hall and imparted his Apostolic Blessing. Not only did His Holiness graciously thank us for being stewards of the Church's heritage of art, but he also challenged us to allow our actions to be a sign of our interior participation in the spiritual life and mission of the Church. It is difficult to describe the

myriad of emotions one can experience as you witness this very holy and busy man patiently and graciously greeting each of us individually - truly, truly an unforgettable honor! The Anniversary celebrations ended with two wonderfully spiritual liturgies. The historic events that had taken place in the hallowed halls of the Sistine Chapel echoed along with the angelic voices of seminarians as we prayed Vespers. Finally, beneath Bernini's famous Cattedra of St. Peter, we culminated the Anniversary with Sunday Mass celebrated by the President of the Vatican City State.

Elegantly executed, the entire trip was an opportunity to create new friendships, enrich older ones, and experience beauty in its many forms. So let us reflect on the question again: "What motivates you to participate and be a member of the Patron of the Arts in the Vatican Museums?" Let me share part of Pope Francis' address to us to help you answer: "In every age the Church has called upon the arts to give expression to the beauty of faith and to proclaim the Gospel message of the grandeur of God's creation, the dignity of human beings made in his image and likeness, and the power of Christ's death and resurrection to bring redemption and rebirth to the world touched by tragedy of sin and death."

Fr. J.J. Mech, Chaplain and Board Member of the Patron of the Arts in the Vatican Museum, Michigan Chapter.



From Lorna Richardson, Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums North American Office

A friend of mine asked me about my recent trip to Rome to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums. My first thought was a fairy tale, a Cinderella story. The beauty of the artwork, the magnificent restoration of the various projects, and the various



HE Giuseppe Cardinal Bertello with Lorna

rooms within the Vatican Museums were absolutely overwhelming. I had the pleasure of visiting one of the New York projects, the Bernini Angels, accompanied by Professor Nespoli-ratti and three other New York Patrons. I was amazed by the expertise of the two on-site restorers, as they used tiny tools, such as files and what looked like

long Q-tips, to clean the angels. I could definitely understand why it will take another two plus years to complete. It was indeed an honor for me to be part of the Patrons 30th Anniversary and to share this life-changing experience with our fellow Patrons of North American and Europe. Each Patron also shared in a moving experience by meeting Pope Francis. Having been with the Patrons for over thirteen years, it was such a pleasure to meet many of the Patrons in person. I took a step back one evening, and looked around the room filled with our Patron members, and my first thought was, "what a beautiful family." I would like to thank our Patrons, Corporate Travel and their team, Father Mark Haydu, Monsignor Terence Hogan, Father Kenneth Whittaker, Father Pat O'Neal, Sara Savoldello, Carolina Rea, Romina Cometti, and our terrific volunteers for all that they did to make this possible.

With gratitude,
Lorna Richardson

LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Patron Friends,

Living in Rome, a city blessed with but a mild chill in December, I sometimes miss the wintery days of my childhood in Ohio. To compensate, I try to visit the slopes at least once each winter; still, nothing compares to the soft beauty of looking out the window from your cozy living room to see that night has left a gentle dusting of fluffy white on the lawn!

At the end of my multi-city November trip to visit and promote my new book, *Meditations on Vatican Art*, I was reminded of the beauty and challenge of snow. A cold, sleety-turned-icy day cancelled the last domestic flight of my travels, fostering the challenge of getting to JFK in time for my flight back to Rome. With a quick few calls, I ended up on a train. Along the three hour journey, I discovered why God permitted this inconvenience. It was so I could enjoy watching the beautiful dusting of snow that gracefully carpeted the back yards bordering the tracks winding northward. Peering out the window, I reflected upon the joyous snowball fights, sledding, igloo-making, and many other happy childhood memories. It was a gift given to me by the snow.

This experience also led me to reflect on all the graces of the past few weeks, starting with our 30th Anniversary and most especially the personal greeting of all our visiting Patrons by Pope Francis. When I approached him, he asked me, "What can I do for you?" His gentle, humble concern directed at me was a strong lesson in leadership – pastors should satisfy the needs of the flock and help alleviate heavy burdens. Our thunderous applause that sent him on his way after the audience is also a memory that will be etched upon my soul forever. We were all so sincerely grateful that he had taken the time, to greet all 350 of us! Of course, I also remembered how supportive the Museum staff and Vatican offices were of our Patrons Anniversary.

The library hush of the Amtrak "silent car" helped me continue to meditate on all the kindnesses received in the many cities I had visited. Details of familial care from all the patrons who dedicated their time, talent, and treasure to help make all the events possible flooded my mind. I prayed for them and for all of you who help the Vatican Museums and Pope Francis preserve the most beautiful and spiritually significant collection in the world. You all have organized lovely events, of which only a few are highlighted within the pages of this newsletter. Yet, God sees all of your efforts and will reward you in ways beyond any of our imaginations. Thanks for the support of the religious men and women who also offered their presence at the various book signings and Patrons events.

As I emerged from Penn Station, a slow snowfall thickened the air. New York looked like it was in a snow globe that had just been shaken and then set upright on God's nightstand. Evening was falling, the city lights reflected on the cascading flakes, and a general cheer filled my grateful heart. The surreal scene was only accentuated by the fact that, as soon as I approached the edge of the sidewalk, a taxi driver pulled up and offered me the ride I needed and wished me a Merry Christmas! This cheerful sentiment is what I offer you all in closing as well. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



"On November 15, 2013, Pope Francis ordained Fernando Vérgez Alzaga, LC as Titular Bishop of Villamagna in Proconsulari whilst also remaining as the Secretary of the Governorate of Vatican City State.

In Christ,

 Fr. Mark Hayden, LC.

Greeting from the Holy Father to the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museum

Saturday, October 19th 2013

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to greet the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museum on the occasion of this pilgrimage to Rome marking your thirtieth anniversary of foundation. Over the past three decades, the Patrons have made an outstanding contribution to the restoration of numerous treasures of art preserved in the Vatican collections and to the broader religious, artistic and cultural mission of the Museums. For that I thank you most heartily. The establishment of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums was inspired not only by a praiseworthy sense of stewardship for the Church's Heritage of sacred art, but also by the desire to advance the spiritual and religious goals which led to the foundation of the papal collections. In every age, the Church has called upon the arts to give expression to the beauty of her faith and to proclaim the Gospel message of the grandeur of God's creation, the dignity of human beings made in His image and likeness, and the power of Christ's death and resurrection to bring redemption and rebirth to a world touched by the tragedy of sin and death. The Vatican Museums, with their unique and rich history, make it possible for countless pilgrims and visitors to Rome, to encounter this message through works of art which bear witness to the greatest aspirations of humanity, the sublime mysteries of the Christian faith, and the quest of that supreme beauty which has its source and fulfillment in God.

Dear Friends, may your patronage of the arts in the Vatican Museums always be a sign of your interior participation in the spiritual journey of the Church. May it also be an expression of our hope in the coming of that Kingdom where beauty, harmony, and peace are the expectation of every human heart and the inspiration of mankind's highest artistic aspirations. To you, your families and associates, I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of enduring joy and peace in the Lord.



The Boyle Family, GB



1 After a week of heavy downpour, the skies miraculously cleared up for a charming evening Cocktail in the Vatican Gardens to commence the week's festivities! 2 Patrons enjoyed a euphony of stringed instruments whilst admiring a stunning ice sculpture of Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam*. 3 Fr. Mark warmly welcomed our extended family. 4 Mons. Hogan and Fr. Whittaker greeted Cardinal Bertello as he arrived for the Cocktail Reception. 5 Patrons attending a conference in the Synod Hall for a presentation by the Vatican Museums' Director and top curators on current and future restorations. 6 Afterwards, everyone had the opportunity to personally speak with restorers and see restoration projects close up during a first ever Restoration Fair in the Paul the VI Hall. In the picture, Restorer Viola Ceppetelli from the tapestry laboratory shows her work. 7 A private mass, presided over by HE Cardinal Harvey, was celebrated for all in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, after hours. 8 HE Card. Harvey greets Mrs. Ruth Woolard and Ms. Donna D'Urso, from New York. 9 HE Card. Harvey kindly greeted each patron after mass and presented them with a small gift. Here, Mr. Doug Brinkley meets with the Cardinal. 10 Patrons attended a fascinating conference given by Mons. Paolo De Nicolò, Regent Emeritus of the Prefecture of the Papal Household, Mons. Peter Wells and Dr. Greg Burke, from the Vatican's Secretary of State in the *Aula delle Benedizioni*, Apostolic Palace.



11 All were free to wander through some of the most magnificent rooms in the Apostolic Palace 12 Patrons relished in the beauty of one of the most Private Chapels in Vatican City, the Pauline Chapel 13 Former volunteer, **Lilly Sohn** and her parents pose in front of a breathtaking view of St. Peter's Basilica 14 Some of the Staff who made the magic happen! (Left to right): **Brendan Small**, **Gabriella Lalatta**, **Giselle Bertino-Clarke**, **Chiara Lorenzetti**, **Carolina Rea**, **Madeline Amos**, and **Sara Savoldello**. 15 Mr. and Mrs. **Koch**, Florida, pose in the dazzling Gallery of the Maps during a cocktail before dinner. 16 **The Arguelles Family** (TX) in the Painting Gallery. 17 **Sally and John Odenheimer** (in the center) with Colorado Patrons, the **Colemans** (left) and the **Haleys** (right). 18 Vespers were held in the Sistine Chapel accompanied by a Choir of LC seminarians. 19 Awards were handed out to some of our most generous donors and to the Staff. Here, **Romina** receives an award from **Cardinal Bertello**. 20 **Pope Francis** was met with love, tears and excitement during a private Audience with the Patrons. 21 **Mrs. Debra Mauro** and **Mrs. Carol Hill**, Canada. 22 To close an incredible week, a private mass was celebrated at the Chair of St. Peter in St. Peter's Basilica by **Cardinal Bertello**.

COMPLETED PROJECTS



Four Ceremonial Shields for Tambaran House, have been restored thanks to **Debra Mauro, Canada Chapter** and the Patrons' Office residuals. These extraordinary shields made of feathers and wood portray human faces, animals and various decorations. The shields came to Europe from Papua New Guinea in 1930.

The Kruzifixus by Gerard Heinrich Bucker was restored thanks to the **Feeley Family, California Patrons**. In the picture, Museums' Director Prof. Antonio Paolucci examines the results of the restoration together with restorer Stefano Tombesi, Dr. Micol Forti and Prof. Arnold Nesselrath.

The **Georgia Chapter** was happy to sponsor this precious Baroque Monstrance and Thurible (16th-17th Century) made of silver, copper, stones, marble and crystal. These liturgical objects were originally used during the rite of the Mass and now, once restored, will be on display in the Vatican Museums. Restorer Paolo Zaccagnini.



The *Madonna and Child with Sts. Anne, Elizabeth and John the Baptist* (16th century) has been restored thank to the generosity of the **Louisiana Chapter**. Stefania Colesanti, the restorer, has worked with great enthusiasms and dedication.



From the Missionary Ethnological Museums these Ten Funerary Poles have been restored and displayed thanks to **Jeffrey Little, California Patron** and the **California Chapter**. Each pole is carved out of a different tree.



The **Massachusetts Chapter** sponsored the The Mummy-Board of Ikhi, from the Oriental Antiquities Department. This mummy-board once belonged to a man named Ikhi who lived in Thebes during the late XXI Dynasty. We are honored to have it on display in the Vatican Museums. Prof. Ulderico Santamaria, in charge of the Scientific Laboratory, shows the project to Prof. Paolucci and Prof. Arnold Nesselrath.

NEWS FROM THE VATICAN

VATICAN PAINTING TO CHICAGO

On the 20th of November 2013, our **Illinois Patrons** collaborated with the Office of Catholic Schools and Legatus to host a reception at the Art Institute of Chicago named "Art as a Carrier of Faith." All came together to admire and reflect on a painting on loan from the Vatican Museums, *Madonna and Child with St. Mary Magdalene*. This stunning masterpiece was recently restored in honor of **H. E. Francis Cardinal George**, who also attended the event. We highly commend Illinois Chapter Leader, **Anne Shea** and her husband **Jack Shea**, who worked tirelessly to organize such a successful event and **Dr. Alessandra Rodolfo**, Art Historian from the Vatican Museums, who ventured over to the States to accompany the artwork.



Fr. Mark with Anne Shea

YOUNG RESTORERS AT THE SCALA SANTA, UK PROJECT

Work has begun at the Holy Stairs in Rome, thanks in part to the **UK Chapter** and a team of eight young restorers hired by the Vatican Museums to carry out this last great restoration, the final major undertaking in the recent efforts of conserving late 16th c. Rome. We reached the top of the scaffolding in the Chapel of S. Lorenzo to see what has everyone so excited. Each step is supervised and directed by both the historians as well as the scientists in the Restoration Lab of the Vatican Museums, a collaboration that assures the best possible results for a successful conservation. (**Mary Angela Schroth**)



Chapel of S. Lorenzo (Holy Stairs) Team: clockwise starting with Paolo Violini (center left), Filippo Leopardi, Alessandra Ferlito, Patrizia Giacomazzi, Serena Sechi, Chiara Munzi, Francesca Cencia, Giorgia Pinto, and Laura Ugolini.

ITALIAN & INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Since 2011, the Vatican Museums has successfully partnered with the Francesco Cavazza Institute for the Blind of Bologna in developing multi-sensory tours for its blind and visually impaired visitors. After creating a wonderful three-dimensional copy of the *Transfiguration* this past August, they have fashioned a base relief translation of the **Fayoum portrait of a young man** from the Zer collection. The Fayoum portrait reproduction, an ad-hoc creation by experts of the Cavazza Institute, further enriches the Vatican Museums path for blind visitors as the first implementation of its kind within the Gregorian Egyptian Museum. Now, this section of the museum joins the Gregorian Profane Museum, the Ethnological Museum, and the Painting Gallery as an area of the Vatican Museums that has successfully adopted this tactile approach. This addition was made possible thanks to the generous initiative of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums, who promoted the project at a fundraiser benefiting museum education for the blind on June 22nd, 2012. At the event, Father Mark Haydi expressed his deepest gratitude for the bunch of this shared, fruitful and mutually reinforcing effort, extending prayers to the all the magnificent collaborators involved in the project.

Dr. Maria Serlupi Crescenzi, Educational Department, Vatican Museums



Fayoum portrait of a young adult (inv. 56605)

THE PORTUGUESE CHAPTER

Headquartered in Aljustrel, Fátima, the Chapter is the first to have been created in Europe (in 2005) and its Patron Roster is composed of Portuguese, English, and Brazilian nationals residing full time or part time in Portugal, the Azores and Madeira Islands, or in former Portuguese Overseas Territories. Erected under the High Patronage of the Portuguese Royal House, the Chapter has already completed the sponsorship of various projects on its own, having also contributed to larger ones headed by other Chapters. Under the leadership of **Carlos Evaristo**, an Expert in Sacred Iconography and Holy Relics, the Chapter has as current Chaplain Monsignor Professor Dr. Canon José Geráldes Freire a former Coimbra University Professor and foremost Fatima Expert.



Carlos Evaristo examining Christopher Columbus' Book Rest.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN!



The Behven Family (CA) between Fr. Mark and Madeline Amos.



The Broadhurst Family (IL) with Carolina Rea in the center.



The Creed Family from Australia.

At the Chapter Leaders' meeting in the Vatican on October 16th which was held in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Patrons, it was voted upon and decided that there should be an increase in individual membership dues beginning January 1st, 2014. The yearly tax exempt Individual Membership will be **\$600.00**. A Family Membership, including children under eighteen years of age, will be **\$1200.00**. A Junior Membership for Patrons thirty-five years of age and under will remain at **\$250.00** per year. The motivating force

behind this decision is the need for further funding of the Patron's North American Office in order to promote and be of service to the many Patrons. This would mark the first time in fourteen years that there was a change in the assessment of memberships for this purpose.

After thirty years of patronage and with the rapid growth and awareness of the work of the Patrons, it has become necessary for the Patrons' Office to expand in order to serve the over 2,000 Patrons who have committed themselves to the restoration and conservation of Vatican art.



John Eaton and his Family, from Canada, and Giselle Bertino-Clarke on the right.



Peter Kimberly (CA) with intern Chiara Lorenzetti.



The Segal Family (CA) with their guide, Jill Alexey (R).



GET CONNECTED!

Keep updated with all the latest Patrons' news through our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, and help spread the good word by inviting your friends to become fans too!

FACEBOOK: "The Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums"

TWITTER: @Vatican_Patrons or https://twitter.com/Vatican_Patrons

INSTAGRAM: @vaticanpatrons or <http://instagram.com/vaticanpatrons>

For information regarding the Patrons please visit our web sites:
www.vatican-patrons.org or www.vatican.va or contact your nearest chapter:

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